

Testimony concerning HB 2579
Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare
March 12, 2024

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas State Board of Pharmacy respectfully submits this proponent testimony on HB 2579. While the Board of Pharmacy does not have jurisdiction over emergency medical services, recent changes in the federal laws governing over-the-counter availability of naloxone have raised concerns about the limitations of current Kansas law. Naloxone is an emergency opioid antagonist used to treat opioid overdoses, which is now available in an over-the-counter formulation. The Board of Pharmacy strongly supports increased access to and availability of the medication and believes this is an important pathway. First responders are an excellent vector for providing naloxone to patients and bystanders. Risks of using naloxone are minimal for anyone not experiencing an overdose.

The Board of Pharmacy does not have concerns about the broader allowance of emergency medical services personnel providing over-the-counter medications to patients and supports excluding methamphetamine precursors due to the potential danger of diversion and misuse. Emergency medical services personnel have appropriate training and safeguards to ensure the proper storage, maintenance, and provision of over-the-counter medications.

Respectfully submitted.